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Official



IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, and 11. The claim amendments relate to consistency of terminology issues. The claim amendments are not related to patentability. Further, the claim amendments do not narrow the claims.

Please add new claims 12-56 as provided below.

Accordingly, claims 1-56 are now pending.

To satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.52(a), all pending claims are presented below. A marked-up version of the claims showing the changes made to the claims follows the Remarks section of this Response.

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PENDING CLAIMS 1-56

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1. (Once Amended) A system for allowing a subscriber to a prepaid communication service to roam between different service markets, the system comprising
- a serving mobile switching center capable of communicating with the subscriber's phone unit and capable of generating a request for a profile associated with the subscriber,
 - a location register in communication with the serving mobile switching center and in communication with a home location register associated with the subscriber profile, the location register being capable of collecting the subscriber profile and capable of identifying a class of market associated with the mobile switching center, whereby the location register can modify the subscriber profile as a function of the identified class of market for controlling the services provided to the subscriber, and
 - a prepaid platform capable of performing call processing for a call associated with the subscriber.
2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the location register includes a database having information representative of class of markets associated with a plurality of markets capable of servicing the subscriber.
3. (Once Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the location register includes a messaging processing unit for processing a message from the mobile switching center to identify a class of market associated with the mobile switching center.
4. (Once Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the mobile switching center includes a profile request service capable of requesting a user profile in response to an NPA/NXX signal representative of the subscriber being a prepaid customer.
5. A system according to claim 1, wherein the location register includes a memory space for storing information representative of a location associated with the subscriber.
6. A system according to claim 1, wherein the location register includes means for providing a home location register with information representative of a location associated with the subscriber.
7. A system according to claim 1, wherein the location register includes means for passing through registration requests for subscribers identified as not-prepaid subscribers.
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8. A system according to claim 1, wherein the location register includes means for requesting subscriber location information from a home location register associated with the subscriber.
9. A system according to claim 1, wherein the location register is in communication with the prepaid platform for delivering subscriber location information to the prepaid platform.
10. A system according to claim 1, wherein the location register includes means for communicating with a visitor location register to allow call termination for a call.
11. (Once Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the location register includes an error reporter for reporting detected error conditions to the prepaid platform.
12. (New) A system for processing calls from a subscriber, the system comprising:
- a mobile switching center capable of communicating with a subscriber phone unit and requesting a subscriber profile,
 - a location register capable of accessing the subscriber profile, identifying a class of market associated with the mobile switching center, modifying the subscriber profile based on the identified class of market, and providing the modified subscriber profile to the serving mobile switching center, and
 - a prepaid platform capable of communicating with the mobile switching center and performing call processing for a subscriber call.
13. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein the location register includes a database having information representative of class of markets associated with a plurality of markets capable of servicing the subscriber.
14. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein the location register includes a messaging processing unit for processing a message from the mobile switching center to identify a class of market associated with the mobile switching center.
15. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein the mobile switching center includes a profile request service capable of requesting a user profile in response to an NPA/NXX signal representative of the subscriber being a prepaid customer.

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16. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein the location register includes a memory space for storing information representative of a location associated with the subscriber.
17. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein the location register is capable of providing a home location register with information representative of a location associated with the subscriber.
18. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein the location register is capable of passing through requests for subscribers identified as non-prepaid subscriber.
19. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein the location register is capable of requesting subscriber location information from a home location register associated with a subscriber.
20. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein the location register is capable of communicating with a visitor location register to allow call termination for a call.
21. (New) A method for processing calls from a subscriber, the method comprising:
identifying a class of market associated with a mobile switching center, wherein the mobile switching center receives a call associated with the subscriber; and,
based on the identified class of market, modifying a profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a prepaid platform.
22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the call originates from at least one of a mobile telephone and a landline.
23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein modifying the profile associated with the subscriber comprises:
modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to at least one of a prepaid platform located in the market associated with the mobile switching center and a prepaid platform located in a market different than the market associated with the mobile switching center.
24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein modifying the profile associated with the subscriber comprises:
modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a prepaid platform located in the market associated with the mobile switching center for the mobile switching center to complete the call.

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25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein modifying the profile associated with the subscriber comprises:

modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a hotline number.

26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein modifying the profile associated with the subscriber comprises:

modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to include a hotline number for a prepaid platform located in a market different than the market associated with the mobile switching center.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the hotline number comprises a toll free telephone number on a public switched telephone network.

28. (New) A method for processing calls for a subscriber, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a profile associated with the subscriber, wherein the subscriber makes a call in a roaming market;

identifying a class of market associated with the roaming market; and,

based on the identified class of market, modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a prepaid platform.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein modifying the profile associated with the subscriber comprises:

modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to at least one of a prepaid platform located in the roaming market and a prepaid platform located in a market different than the roaming market.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein modifying the profile associated with the subscriber comprises:

modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a prepaid platform located in the roaming market for a mobile switching center in the roaming market to complete the call.

31. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein modifying the profile associated with the subscriber comprises:

modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a hotline number.

32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein modifying the profile associated with the subscriber comprises:

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modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to include a hotline number for a prepaid platform located in a market different than the roaming market.

33. (New) A method for processing calls from a subscriber, the method comprising receiving, at a mobile switching center, a call associated with the subscriber; requesting, from a home mobile switching center, a profile associated with the subscriber; identifying a class of market associated with the mobile switching center; and, based on the identified class of market, modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a prepaid platform.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein modifying the profile associated with the subscriber comprises:

modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to at least one of a prepaid platform located in the market associated with the mobile switching center and a prepaid platform located in a market different than the market associated with the mobile switching center.

35. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein modifying the profile associated with the subscriber comprises:

modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a prepaid platform located in the market associated with the mobile switching center for the mobile switching center to complete the call.

36. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein modifying the profile associated with the subscriber comprises:

modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a hotline number.

37. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein modifying the profile associated with the subscriber comprises:

modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to include a hotline number for a prepaid platform located in a market different than the market associated with the foreign mobile switching center.

38. (New) A processor program for processing calls from a subscriber, the processor program being tangibly stored on a processor-readable medium and comprising instructions operable to cause a processor to:

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identify a class of market associated with a mobile switching center, wherein the mobile switching center receives a call associated with the subscriber; and,

based on the identified class of market, modify a profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a prepaid platform.

39. (New) The processor program of claim 38, wherein the instructions to modify a profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a prepaid platform comprise instructions to:

modify the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to at least one of a prepaid platform located in the market associated with the mobile switching center and a prepaid platform located in a market different than the market associated with the mobile switching center.

40. (New) The processor program of claim 38, wherein the instructions to modify a profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a prepaid platform comprise instructions to:

modify the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call a prepaid platform located in a market associated with the mobile switching center.

41. (New) The processor program of claim 38, wherein the instructions to modify a profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a prepaid platform comprise instructions to:

modify the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a hotline number.

42. (New) The processor program of claim 38, wherein the instructions to modify a profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a prepaid platform comprise instructions to:

modify the profile associated with the subscriber to include a hotline number for a prepaid platform located in a market different than the market associated with the mobile switching center.

43. (New) A method for routing a call, the method comprising:

determining whether a prepaid platform is associated with a market for a mobile switching center receiving the call; and,

based on whether a prepaid platform is associated with the market for the mobile switching center receiving the call, routing the call to at least one of a hotline number and a prepaid platform associated with the market for the mobile switching center.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the call originates from at least one of a mobile telephone and a landline.

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45. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the hotline number comprises a toll free telephone number on a public switched telephone network.

46. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein routing the call to at least one of a hotline number and a prepaid platform associated with the market for the mobile switching center comprises:

modifying a profile associated with a subscriber for the call to route the call to at least one of a hotline number and a prepaid platform associated with the market for the mobile switching center.

47. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein routing the call to a prepaid platform associated with the market for the mobile switching center comprises:

routing the call to a prepaid platform associated with the market for the mobile switching center to allow the mobile switching center to complete the call.

48. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein routing the call to a prepaid platform associated with the market for the mobile switching center comprises:

modifying a profile associated with a subscriber for the call to route the call to a prepaid platform associated with the market for the mobile switching center to allow the mobile switching center to complete the call.

49. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein routing the call to a hotline number comprises:

routing the call to a hotline number to a prepaid platform associated with a market different than the market associated with the mobile switching center.

50. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein routing the call to a hotline number comprises:

modifying a profile associated with a subscriber for the call to include a hotline number for a prepaid platform associated with a market different than the market associated with the mobile switching center.

51. (New) A processor program for routing a call, the processor program being tangibly stored on a processor readable medium and comprising instructions operable to cause a processor to:

determine whether a prepaid platform is associated with a market for a mobile switching center receiving the call; and,

based on whether a prepaid platform is associated with the market for the mobile switching center receiving the call, route the call to at least one of a hotline number and a prepaid platform associated with the market for the mobile switching center.

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52. (New) The processor program of claim 51, wherein the instructions to route the call to at least one of a hotline number and a prepaid platform associated with the market for the mobile switching center comprise instructions to:

modify a profile associated with a subscriber for the call to route the call to at least one of a hotline number and a prepaid platform associated with the market for the mobile switching center.

53. (New) The processor program of claim 51, wherein the instructions to route the call to a prepaid platform associated with the market for the mobile switching center comprises instructions to:

route the call to a prepaid platform associated with the market for the mobile switching center to allow the mobile switching center to complete the call.

54. (New) The processor program of claim 51, wherein the instructions to route the call to a prepaid platform associated with the market for the mobile switching center comprises instructions to:

modify a profile associated with a subscriber for the call to route the call to a prepaid platform associated with the market for the mobile switching center to allow the mobile switching center to complete the call.

55. (New) The processor program of claim 51, wherein the instructions to route the call to a hotline number comprise instructions to:

route the call to a hotline number to a prepaid platform associated with a market different than the market associated with the mobile switching center.

56. (New) The processor program of claim 51, wherein the instructions to route the call to a hotline number comprise instructions to:

modify a profile associated with a subscriber for the call to include a hotline number to a prepaid platform associated with a market different than the market associated with the mobile switching center.